

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL
FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al)

vs)

ARAKI, Sadao, et al)

AFFIDAVIT

DEPONENT: ABE, Nobuyuki

I, ABE, Nobuyuki, make oath and say as follows:

I was formerly a General of the Imperial Japanese Army.

My address is No. 88, 1-Chome, Shimatakaido, Suginami-ku, Tokyo-to.

ARAKI, Sadao and I were very intimate friends among classmates and I have known his character and opinion very well. He has been a man of firm belief and has never given in to anyone when he believed he was right; so that he was often misunderstood. Nevertheless his idea was always moderate and impartial and never gone to extreme. He was very sympathetic to others and so goodhearted that he was often blamed of wanting firmness. He hated to entrap anyone resorting to intrigues.

In the days of the Manchurian Incident, I was in the service abroad and seldom had a chance to see him. In those few cases when I could see him, we discussed his effort that, being appointed as the Minister of War after the outbreak of the incident, how he had been working hard to stop the warfare from being extended to the whole sphere of Chinese and Japanese relations from his worry over ill-tracked public opinion in our country as well as abroad; and how he was determined with unusual firmness and consideration to terminate the military operations in Manchuria in a possible short period of time by restoring peace and order there.

In October 1939 I formed a cabinet and on the 1st of December I was able to get the consent of ARAKI to join my cabinet as a counsellor. The system of counsellorship to Premier was inaugurated at the time of the first KONOYE Cabinet with the aims of advising the Premier for termination of the China Incident. One could draw neither authority nor allowance from the system and it remained like an honorary service. Valuing ARAKI at high esteem in his ability in promptly rounding up of the Manchurian Incident and insofar as he was in accord with my wishes in dealing with the prompt solution of the China Incident, I asked him to accept the counsellorship and help me.

ARAKI, however, was very reluctant saying that while he was serving as Minister of Education in the first KONOYE Cabinet and HIRANUMA Cabinet, being a civil minister, he had

neither been asked for his opinion nor had he the opportunity of presenting his own idea on the problems of military operations and foreign affairs; then how could he serve the country as a mere counsellor for the Premier, the post of which was in name only, with no meaning. Nevertheless he finally yielded to my earnest request, considering our friendship, and accepted the post.

My cabinet resigned in one month after that appointment, and after that I had not sufficient chance to hear from him either in an official or private capacity.

ABE, Nobuyuki

Subscribed and sworn to before the undersigned officer by the above-named ABE, Nobuyuki, at the War Ministry Building, Tokyo, Japan, on this _____ day of August 1947.

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EXHIBIT #

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一 私は元陸軍大將阿部信行であります

現在東京都杉並區下高井戸一ノ八八番地に居住致して居ります

一 私は荒木貞夫とは同期生の中でも最も親密であつて其性格も主張もよく知つて居ります

彼は信念に強く正しと信したらおろけない爲めによく誤解されたが彼の思想も行動も常に穩健中正で過激な所は少しもなかつた。又彼れは同情心に厚く時には優柔と非難される程温和主義で謀略を用ひて人を陥れるが如き事を極度に嫌つた

一 滿洲事變の時は私は外地勤務であつたから時々しか彼れに會ふ機會がなかつたが其儘かな機會に依つても彼れが事變勃發後陸軍大臣になり極端に荒れて居た當時の國內や國外の事態に對應し異常な決意と苦心とを以て日支の全面的戦争にならないよう急速に滿洲の治安を恢復し軍事行動を止めるようにと努力して居た事を承知した

一 私は昭和十四年九月内閣を組織したが同年十二月一日荒木に内閣参議になつて貰つた、内閣参議制度は支那事變處理の爲め總理大臣の相談相手になると云ふ趣旨で第一次近衛内閣當時設けられたが機嫌上何等の權限も待遇もなかつたので其後一つの名譽職のようになつてゐたが私は荒木の滿洲事變を急速に處理した手腕を買ひ支那事變

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を急遽に處理せんとする私の考へと一致した意見を持つて居る荒木に私を助けて貰ひ度いと議論就任を求めたのであります。然るに荒木は第一次近衛内閣や平沼内閣に文部大臣として入閣したが一文官大臣としては作戦や外交問題に關しては何等の相談も受ける意見を受ける機会もなかつた、況んや有名無實の内閣参議では御奉公の道がないからと云つて容易に承諾しなかつたが親友としての私の懇請に遂に承諾してくれた。併し乍ら私の内閣は其一月の後總辭職したので荒木からは公的にも私的にも充分の意見を聴く機会もなかつた。

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昭和三十三年（一九四七年）四月二日 於

東京都杉並區下高井戸一ノ八八
供 述 者 阿 部 信 行

右ハ當立會人ノ面前ニテ宣誓シ且ツ署名捺印シタルコト
ヲ證明シマス

同日 於 同 所

立 會 人 菅 原 裕

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良心ニ從ヒ眞實ヲ述ベ何事ヲモ隠秘セズ又何事ヲモ附加
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(捺印名)

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